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ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF DR. DZIOBEK'S  
TREATISE ON THE MATHEMATICAL THEORIES OF PLANETARY  
MOTIONS [BY PROFESSOR M. W. HARRINGTON, DIRECTOR OF  
THE OBSERVATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN].

Dr. DZIOBEK's treatise appeared in the German language in 1888, and has been very well received. Its original publication was aided by a grant from the Prussian Department of Education. It is an interesting fact that an American publisher has been willing to issue, at his private risk, and without guarantees, an English translation of this work, which has been made by Professor HARRINGTON, and revised by the author.

The book is not in any sense an elementary one. Its scope is best indicated by the following extracts from the author's preface :

"The problem of the motion of the heavenly bodies is of great importance in itself, but it is of especial importance to the mathematician. The attempts to solve it, though not entirely successful, have afforded occasion for a display of unsurpassed ability, and have given a great impulse to mathematics. Analytical mechanics, beginning with Newton and receiving its final form from Lagrange, is especially indebted to this problem which afforded it the very foothold necessary for its advance, and though not yet completely solved, it has proved so fertile in suggestion and impulse, that it has determined, to a great degree, not only the direction, but also the rapidity of the advance of mathematics.

"Hence, when it is desired to illustrate the abstract theories of analytical mechanics, the profundity of the mathematics of the problem of the motions of the heavenly bodies, its powerful influence on the historical development of this science, and finally the dignity of its object, all point to it as most suitable for this purpose.

"This work is not so much intended for the specialist in astronomy as for the student of mathematics who desires an insight into the creations of his masters in this field. The lack of a textbook which would give, within moderate limits and in a strictly scientific manner, the principles of mathematical astronomy in their present remarkably simple and lucid form, is undoubtedly the reason why so many mathematicians extend their knowledge of our planetary system but little beyond Kepler's laws. The author has endeavored to fill this gap and, at the same time, to produce a book which shall be so near the present state of the science that the latest

investigations shall be included, and even the unsettled questions indicated.

“The subject of the work is that part of celestial mechanics which treats of the motions of the heavenly bodies considered as gravitating points. This is the most important part, and it is fundamental for theories of rotation, of tides, and of the figures of bodies. The author hopes to treat of the latter in a separate work. The simplest processes, and those which best represent the present state of the science, have always been selected and especial care has been taken to guard against the brilliant hypotheses which the explorers of this field have so often indulged in, but which are not suitable for a text-book. The farther advance of the student is aided by the references to the original sources which are invariably given, and which have, almost without exception, been used by the author.

“Farther assistance in this direction is afforded by the sketch of the historical development of the subject which accompanies each important subdivision of the work.”

The work is issued by subscription, at a price of \$3.50 (orders can be sent directly to Professor HARRINGTON.) It is a matter for congratulation (on several accounts) that the number of orders already received indicates a strong demand for such a treatise in the English language. E. S. H.

#### BIOGRAPHY OF W. C. BOND.

The *Boston Traveller* is now printing a series of weekly articles (beginning with its issue of August 2) on the life and works of W. C. BOND, the first Director of the Harvard College Observatory. I understand that his granddaughters contemplate the preparation of a memoir of the elder BOND and of his son, Professor GEORGE P. BOND, who was the second Director of the same observatory. E. S. H.

#### SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT BLANC [BY M. JANSSEN].

M. JANSSEN, Director of the Physical Observatory of Meudon, near Paris, has just made a report of his scientific expedition to the summit of Mount Blanc, which is most interesting in every point of view. The original account is printed in the *Comptes Rendus* of the Paris Academy of Sciences, vol. CXI, (1890.) The following is a brief abstract. The object of M. JANSSEN's expedition was to determine whether oxygen exists in the solar atmosphere. When the solar spectrum is examined with a spectroscope, at sea level, some lines